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JUDGE

APPLYING IFP

MAG. JUDGE

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

AMOUNT

RECEIPT#

e G	UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT	16	5626
FOR T	TERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA — DESIGNATION FORM to be used by counsel to in nent to appropriate calendar.	ndicate the category of th	e case for the purpose of
Address	of Plaintiff: Creg Bayer 40 E. Chicago Ave. Chicago,	Minois 600	011
Addres	of Defendant: MICHAEL GIGLIOTH, ESG. 2000 SONG EUVE	760 ST., SH. II	- Yhiladelphia,
Place o	Accident, Incident or Transaction: Thilale phic, Hamiltonian Space Compared to the Compar		,
Does th	is civil action involve a nongovernmental corporate party with any parent corporation and any publicly held co	orporation owning/10% or	more of its stock?
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	is case involve multidistrict litigation possibilities?	Yes□ No□	
	ED CASE, IF ANY: umber: Judge Date Terminated:		
	ses are deemed related when yes is answered to any of the following questions:	\bigcirc	
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4. Is th	 us case a second or successive habeas corpus, social security appeal, or pro se civil rights case filed by the same	e individual?	
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\$150,0	ursuant to Local Civil Rule 53.2, Section 3(c)(2), that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the damages rec 00.00 exclusive of interest and costs; Relief other than monetary damages is sought.	overable in this civil action	i case exceed the sum of
DATE	10/27/14 Town M. Mossel	8753L	}
	Attorney-at-Law NOTE: A trial de novo will be a trial by jury only if there has been compliance	Attorney I.D. e with F.R.C.P. 38.	#
I certif	y that, to my knowledge, the within case is not related to any case now pending or within one year previ	ously terminated action i	n this court
- 1	as noted above.		-//
DATE	: 10/27/16	375	⁻ 34
	Attorney-at-Law	Attorney I.D.#	

CIV. 609 (5/2012)



IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

CASE MANAGEMENT TRACK DESIGNATION FORM

@ 8

v.

NO. **16**

CIVIL ACTION

5626

In accordance with the Civil Justice Expense and Delay Reduction Plan of this court, counsel for plaintiff shall complete a Case Management Track Designation Form in all civil cases at the time of filing the complaint and serve a copy on all defendants. (See § 1:03 of the plan set forth on the reverse side of this form.) In the event that a defendant does not agree with the plaintiff regarding said designation, that defendant shall, with its first appearance, submit to the clerk of court and serve on the plaintiff and all other parties, a Case Management Track Designation Form specifying the track to which that defendant believes the case should be assigned.

SELECT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING CASE MANAGEMENT TRACKS:

SELECT ONE OF THE F	OLLOWING CASE MANAGE	VIENT TRACKS:	
(a) Habeas Corpus – Cases	brought under 28 U.S.C. § 2241	through § 2255.	()
	requesting review of a decision on anying plaintiff Social Security Be		()
(c) Arbitration - Cases requ	uired to be designated for arbitrati	on under Local Civil Rule 53.2.	()
(d) Asbestos – Cases involve exposure to asbestos.	ving claims for personal injury or	property damage from	()
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(f) Standard Management -	- Cases that do not fall into any or	ne of the other tracks.	(m)
10/27/16 Date	Todd m. mossel Attorney-at-law	Plaintiffs By	x & Casan
(215)567-1220	(215)864-7875	todd @ masser lego	al. com

Telephone

FAX Number

E-Mail Address

(Civ. 660) 10/02



IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANI

GREG BAYER,

40 E Chicago Ave

Chicago, Illinois 60611

And

JOHN LARSON,

430 S La Grange Rd.,

La Grange, Illinois 60525

16

5626

PLAINTIFFS

CIVIL ACTION NO: 16:____

v.

MICHAEL GIGLIOTTI, ESQUIRE

2000 Spring Garden Street

Suite 1F

Philadelphia, PA 19130; and,

KASHKASHIAN & ASSOCIATES

10 Canal St

Bristol, PA 19007

DEFENDANTS

PLAINTIFFS' CIVIL ACTION COMPLAINT

Plaintiffs, Greg Bayer and John Larson, bring this civil action against the above-named Defendants, reserving their right to subsequently amend or add to the following allegations, and in support thereof aver as follows:

I. THE PARTIES

- Plaintiff Greg Bayer is an adult individual who currently resides at 40
 E. Chicago Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, 60611.
- Plaintiff John Larson is an adult individual who currently resides at 430 S. La Grange Rd., La Grange, Illinois, 60525.
- 3. Defendant, Michael Gigliotti, Esquire (hereafter "Gigliotti"), is an attorney licensed to practice law in Pennsylvania. Giggliotti's office is located at 2000 Spring Garden Street, Suite 1F Philadelphia, PA 19130. Relevant to this cause of action, Gigliotti is admitted to practice law before the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.
- 4. Defendant Kashkashian & Associates at all times relevant hereto employed Defendant Gigliotti as a lawyer who worked for that law firm. Thus, at all relevant times herein, Defendant Gigliotti acted as an agent, servant, and/or employee of Defendant Kashkashian & Associates.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

5. The amount in controversy exceeds \$75,000.00.

- 6. Jurisdiction over the cause of action in this Complaint exists because the parties are diverse under the meaning of 28 U.S.C. § 1332 and because the amount in controversy exceeds \$75,000.00
- 7. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391 because Defendants regularly conduct business in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania and because the events giving rise to the claim raised herein occurred in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

II. FACTS

- 8. Bayer and Larson initiated an adversary proceeding in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania against Nicholas Bayer. The suit arose in relation to debts Plaintiffs were owed from Nicholas Bayer related to the transfer and financing of shares of Saxby's Corporation from Greg Bayer and John Larsen to Nicholas Bayer. Plaintiffs sought a determination that the claims they asserted were non-dischargeable in Nicholas Bayer's bankruptcy pursuant to 11 U.S.C. §§ 532(a) (2) and (4).
- 9. After a non-jury trial, the Bankruptcy Court, per the Honorable Chief Judge Eric L. Frank, ruled in favor of Debtor Nicholas Bayer, and held that the claims that Plaintiffs asserted were dischargeable.
- 10. The Court's ruling was issued on December 2, 2014.

- 11. Defendant Gigliotti, acting as a servant, agent, or employee of Defendant Kashkashian & Associates, represented Plaintiffs in the adversary proceeding as local counsel. His responsibilities included *inter alia*, executing all filings on behalf of Plaintiffs.
- 12. Prior to Judge Frank's ruling, both Plaintiffs had several conversations with Gigliotti about filing an appeal should one be necessary. Plaintiffs made clear, on no uncertain terms, that they wanted to file an appeal in the event that Judge Frank ruled against them.
- 13. Gigliotti emailed Judge Frank's decision to Plaintiffs on December
 2, 2014. He did not advise Plaintiffs that he would not file an appeal,
 nor did he advise Plaintiffs of the fourteen (14) day deadline for filing
 an appeal.
- 14. After receiving Judge Frank's opinion, both Plaintiffs told Gigliotti that they wished to appeal the decision.
- 15. Gigliotti did not respond to Plaintiffs.
- 16. Plaintiffs continued to contact Gigliotti about filing an appeal, Bayer even asked what the deadline for filing the appeal was.
- 17. Gigliotti failed to respond to either of the Plaintiffs at any time. He did not return any text messages, phone calls, or emails.

- 18. Plaintiffs, assuming that they had thirty days to appeal, sought out new counsel after the fourteen-day deadline had expired not knowing that their appeal rights had lapsed.
- 19. Through new counsel, Plaintiffs filed a petition to have their rights to appeal restored *nunc pro tunc*. After an evidentiary hearing, Judge Frank denied that petition. Judge Frank's decision on this petition was affirmed by the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania on September 29, 2016.

COUNT I

Plaintiffs Bayer and Larson v. Defendants Gigliotti and Kashkashian & Associates

Legal Malpractice¹

- 20. Plaintiffs incorporate all previous paragraphs as if more fully set forth here.
- 21. Plaintiffs retained Defendants Gigliotti and Kashkashian & Associates for the purpose of providing competent legal services on their behalf in the adversary proceeding against Nicholas Bayer.

¹ The requisite Certificate of Merit is attached hereto as Exhibit 'A'.

- 22. At all times relevant hereto, Gigliotti had a duty to exercise the degree of ordinary knowledge, skill, and competence acceptable in the legal profession.
- 23. As detailed in this Complaint and as set forth more fully below,
 Gigliotti, acting as a servant, agent, or employee of Kashkashian &
 Associates, breached that duty to Plaintiffs Bayer and Larson in the
 following particulars:
 - a. By failing to timely file a notice of appeal from Judge Frank's adverse December 2, 2014 judgment and Opinion;
 - b. By completely failing to advise Plaintiffs Bayer and Larson of the fourteen-day deadline for filing a notice of appeal to the Eastern District of Pennsylvania;
 - c. By completely abandoning Plaintiffs Bayer and Larson after emailing Judge Frank's opinion to them by refusing to return Plaintiffs' repeated phone calls, test messages, and emails; and,
 - d. By failing outright to consult with lead counsel, Robert

 Sweeney of Chicago, about whether to file an appeal for

 Plaintiffs.
- 24. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant Giggliotti's errors and omissions, Plaintiffs lost their right to appeal Judge Frank's decision

- to the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. But for Giggliotti's errors and omissions, Plaintiffs would not have forfeited their rights to appeal the Bankruptcy Court's adverse decision.
- 25. In further support of the prejudice prong, Plaintiffs aver that they can satisfy the "case within the case" issue because they would have won their appeal, as even Judge Frank acknowledged that "there is legal support for the Plaintiffs' position." *See In re Bayer*. 521 B.R. 491, 509-13 (Bankr. E.D. Pa. 2014).
- 26. Plaintiffs loss of their rights to file an appeal where there was acknowledged legal support for their position was not inconsequential. Rather, as recognized by a state court in Illinois, Plaintiffs estimated damages exceed \$34,000,000.00.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs Greg Bayer and John Larson demand judgment in their favor and against Defendants Michael Gigliotti and Kashkashian & Associates in an amount determined by this Court to be appropriate, plus the costs of the instant suit, together with attorney's fees, punitive damages, and any other relief this Court deems just and appropriate.

COUNT II

Plaintiffs Greg Bayer and John Larson v. Michael Gigliotti and Kashkashian & Associates

Breach of Contract

- 27. Plaintiffs incorporate all previous paragraphs as if more fully set forth here.
- 28. In consideration of Plaintiffs' payment of legal fees to Defendant Gigliotti, Defendant Gigliotti, acting as a servant, agent, or employee of Defendant Kashkashian & Associates, agreed to represent Plaintiffs in the adversary proceeding against Nicholas Bayer.
- 29. Defendant's conduct as described in this Complaint is in breach of the implied duty of good faith and fair dealing extant in Plaintiffs' contract for legal services.
- 30. Defendant Gigliotti's conduct, engaged in as a servant, agent, or employee of Kashkashian & Associates; as described in this Complaint is in breach of the implied warranty of good and workmanlike legal services and an express warranty of competence and skill by neglecting his duty of loyalty to Plaintiffs.

- 31. As detailed in this Complaint and as set forth more fully below, Gigliotti breached that duty to Plaintiffs Bayer and Larson in the following particulars:
 - a. By failing to timely file a notice of appeal from Judge Franks' adverse December 2, 2014 judgment and Opinion;
 - b. By completely failing to advise Plaintiffs Bayer and Larson of the fourteen-day deadline for filing a notice of appeal to the Eastern District of Pennsylvania;
 - c. By completely abandoning Plaintiffs Bayer and Larson after emailing Judge Frank's opinion to them by refusing to return Plaintiffs' repeated phone calls, test messages, and emails; and,
 - d. By failing outright to consult with lead counsel, Robert Sweeney of Chicago, about whether to file an appeal for Plaintiffs.
- 32. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant Giggliotti's errors and omissions, Plaintiffs lost their right to appeal Judge Frank's decision to the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. But for Giggliotti's errors and omissions, Plaintiffs would not have forfeited their rights to appeal the Bankruptcy Court's adverse decision.

- 33. Plaintiffs loss of their rights to file an appeal where there was acknowledged legal support for their position was not inconsequential. Rather, as recognized by a state court in Illinois, Plaintiffs estimate damages exceed \$34,000,000.00.
- 34. As a direct and proximate result of the actions taken by Defendants,
 Plaintiff has suffered the general and specific damages alleged in this
 Complaint and demands compensatory and punitive damages, an
 award of attorney's fees and costs, and any other equitable remedy
 that the Court deems reasonable and just.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs Greg Bayer and John Larson demand judgment in their favor and against Defendants Michael Gigliotti and Kashkashian & Associates in an amount deemed appropriate by this Court, plus the costs of the instant suit, together with attorney's fees, punitive damages, and any other relief this Court deems just and appropriate.

COUNT III

RESPONDEAT SUPERIOR/VICARIOUS LIABILITY

- 35. Plaintiffs incorporate all previous paragraphs as if more fully set forth here.
- 36. Defendant Giggliotti's errors and omissions were committed while

- providing legal services in his capacity as agent, servant, and/or employee of Defendant Kashkashian & Associates, or alternatively, while Gigliotti was a member of Kashkashian & Associates.
- 37. Defendant Giggliotti's errors and omissions were committed while he was providing professional services for the benefit of Kashkashian& Associates, whether directly or indirectly.
- 38. Defendant Kashkashian & Associates knew or should have known that Defendant Gigliotti was committing errors and omissions while Gigliotti was providing legal services for their direct or indirect financial benefit.
- 39. Accordingly, Defendant Kashkashian & Associates is directly liable over to Plaintiffs Bayer & Larson under the legal theory of Respondeat Superior/Vicarious Liability.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs Greg Bayer and John Larson demand judgment in their favor and against Defendant Kashkashian & Associates in an amount to be determined by the Court, plus the costs of the instant suit, together with attorney's fees, punitive damages, and any other relief this Court deems just and appropriate.

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

Respectfully submitted,

MOSSER LEGAL, PLLC

BY:

Todd M. Mosser

Counsel for Plaintiffs

Attorney ID: 87534

1500 JFK Boulevard, Suite 1723

Philadelphia, PA 19102

215-567-1220

todd@mosserlegal.com

10/27/16

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that a true and correct copy of the foregoing document was served on Defendants via personal delivery at the addresses listed above.

Todd M. Mosser, Esquire

Date: 10/27/16

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

GREG A	BAYEI	R,
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40 E Chicago Ave

Chicago, Illinois 60611

And

JOHN LARSON,

430 S La Grange Rd.,

La Grange, Illinois 60525

PLAINTIFFS

|--|

v.

MICHAEL GIGLIOTTI, ESQUIRE

2000 Spring Garden Street

Suite 1F

Philadelphia, PA 19130; and,

KASHKASHIAN & ASSOCIATES

10 Canal St

Bristol, PA 19007

DEFENDANTS

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT PURSUANT TO PA. R. CIV. P. 1042.3(A) AS TO DEFENDANTS MICHAEL GIGLIOTTI, ESQUIRE, INDIVIDUALLY, AND ON BEHALF OF HIS LAW FIRM, DEFENDANT KASHKASHIAN & ASSOCIATES

I, Todd M. Mosser, Esquire hereby certify that an appropriate licensed professional has supplied a written statement to the undersigned that there is a basis to conclude that the legal skill or knowledge exercised or exhibited by the Defendants in their

legal practice or work, which is the subject of this Complaint in Professional Legal Malpractice, fell below the acceptable professional standard of care and that such conduct was a cause in bringing about the harm.

Respectfully submitted,

MOSSER LEGAL, PLLC

Todd M. Mosser

BY:

Counsel for Plaintiffs

Attorney ID: 87534

1500 JFK Boulevard, Suite 1723

Philadelphia, PA 19102

215-567-1220

todd@mosserlegal.com

10/27/16